

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior listings, and versions, of claims in the present application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A captioning system for providing captions for a presentation to a user, the captioning system comprising:

a caption store configured to store one or more sets of captions each set being associated with one or more presentations and each set comprising a plurality of captions for playout at different timings during the associated presentation; and

a cellular telephone ~~portable user device~~ having:

i) a first receiver configured to receive, from said caption store, at least one set of captions for storage in the cellular telephone ~~user device~~ or to receive a sequence of captions for a presentation to be made to a user associated with the cellular telephone ~~user device~~;

ii) a microphone configured to receive a wireless acoustic signal that is time synchronized with the presentation for use in defining the timing during the presentation at which each caption is to be output to the user associated with the cellular telephone ~~user device~~;

iii) a caption output circuit operable to output each received caption to the user associated with the cellular telephone ~~user device~~; and

iv) a timing controller configured to process said received wireless acoustic signal to determine the timing during the presentation at which each caption should be output and configured to control said caption output circuit so that each caption is output to said user at the determined timing.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein said captions include text and wherein said caption output circuit is operable to output said captions to a display device associated with the cellular telephone user-device for display to the user.

5. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 4, wherein said captions include formatting information for controlling the format of the text displayed on said display.

6. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 4, wherein each caption includes duration information defining the duration that the caption should be displayed to the user.

7. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 4, wherein said caption includes timing information defining the time at which the caption should be displayed to the user during the presentation.

8. (Withdrawn) The system according to claim 1 wherein said captions include audio data and wherein said caption output circuit is operable to output said audio data to an electro-acoustic device for converting the audio data into corresponding acoustic signals.

9. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein said presentation includes audio.

10. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein said presentation includes video.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein said caption store is formed in a memory card which is insertable into said cellular telephone user device and wherein said cellular telephone user device includes a reader for reading captions from said memory card when inserted therein.

13. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein said caption store is provided in a computer system and wherein said cellular telephone user device includes a communication module for communicating with said computer system.

14. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 13, wherein said computer system is remote from said cellular telephone user device.

15. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 13, wherein said cellular telephone user device includes a housing and wherein said communication module is provided within said housing.

16. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 13, wherein said communication module is operable to communicate with said remote computer system using a wireless communication link.

17. (Canceled)

18. (Canceled)

19. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 42, wherein said synchronization information defines expected time points for one or more predetermined portions of the presentation.

20. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 19, wherein said cellular telephone user device comprises a monitoring circuit operable to monitor said presentation to identify the actual time points of said one or more predetermined portions and wherein said timing controller is responsive to the difference between the actual timings and the expected timings to control the outputting of the captions by said caption output circuit.

21. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 20, wherein said predetermined portions of said presentation correspond to portions of audio of the presentation and wherein said monitoring circuit is coupled to said microphone for sensing the audio of the presentation and includes a comparator for comparing the received audio with the expected portions of the audio defined by said synchronization information.

22. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 20, wherein said cellular telephone user device has an acquisition mode of operation in which an output of said monitoring circuit is compared with said predetermined points defined by said synchronization information to identify a current position within said presentation and a tracking mode of operation in which the output of said monitoring circuit is compared with a current predetermined portion defined by said synchronization information.

23. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 22, wherein during said tracking mode of operation, said monitoring circuit is operable to monitor said presentation during a predetermined time window around the expected time point defined by said synchronization information for the current predetermined portion.

24. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 42, wherein said cellular telephone user device is configured to receive said synchronization information from said caption store.

25. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 42, wherein said synchronization information is embedded within said presentation and wherein said cellular telephone user device includes a monitoring circuit operable to monitor the presentation and to extract said synchronization information therefrom.

26. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 25, wherein said synchronization information is embedded within the audio of said presentation and wherein the monitoring circuit is responsive to the microphone to monitor the audio of the presentation.

27. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 25, wherein said synchronization information comprises synchronization codes occurring at different timings during the presentation.

28. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 27, wherein each synchronization code is unique to uniquely define the position in the presentation.

29. (Previously Presented) The system according to claim 1, wherein said caption store includes a plurality of sets of captions for a plurality of different presentations.

30. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 29, wherein said cellular telephone user device is configured to capture a portion of said presentation and is configured to transmit the captured portion to said caption store and wherein said caption store is configured to use said captured portion of the presentation to identify the presentation being made and to transmit the associated set of captions for the identified presentation to said cellular telephone user device.

31. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 30, wherein said cellular telephone user device is configured to process the captured portion of the presentation to extract data characteristic of the captured portion and is operable to transmit said characteristic data to

said caption store, and wherein said caption store is configured to use said characteristic data to identify the presentation being made and to transmit the associated set of captions for the identified presentation to the cellular telephone user device.

32. (Currently Amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein said presentation is given at a venue, wherein said venue is configured to provide an activation code, wherein said cellular telephone user device is operable to receive said activation code and further comprises an inhibitor for inhibiting the operation of said caption output circuit unless said cellular telephone user device has received said activation code.

33. (Currently Amended) A portable cellular telephone user device for use in a captioning system, the portable cellular telephone user device comprising:

i) a first receiver configured to receive, from a caption store, at least one set of captions for storage in the cellular telephone user device or to receive a sequence of captions for a presentation to be made to a user associated with the cellular telephone user device;

ii) a microphone configured to receive a wireless acoustic signal that is time synchronized with the presentation for use in defining the timing during the presentation at which each caption is to be output to the user associated with the cellular telephone user device;

iii) a caption output circuit operable to output each received caption to the user associated with the cellular telephone user device; and

iv) a timing controller configured to process said received wireless acoustic signal to determine the timing during the presentation at which each caption should be output and configured to control said caption output circuit so that each caption is output to said user at the determined timing.

34. (Canceled)

35. (Canceled)

36. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium storing computer executable instructions for causing a general purpose computing device to operate as the portable cellular telephone user device of claim 33.

37-39. (Canceled)

40. (Currently Amended) A captioning system for providing captions for a presentation to a user, the captioning system comprising:

means for storing one or more sets of captions each set being associated with one or more presentations and each set comprising a plurality of captions for play out at different timings during the associated presentation; and

a portable cellular telephone user device having:

i) means for receiving at least one set of captions for storage in the cellular telephone user device or for receiving a sequence of captions for a presentation to be made to a user associated with the cellular telephone user device;

ii) means for receiving a wireless acoustic signal that is time synchronized with the presentation for use in defining the timing during the presentation at which each caption is to be output to the user associated with the cellular telephone user device;

iii) means for outputting each received caption to the user associated with the cellular telephone user device; and

iv) means for processing said received wireless acoustic signal to determine the timing during the presentation at which each caption should be output and for controlling said output means so that each caption is output to said user at the determined timing.

41. (Canceled)

42. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 1, configured to receive synchronization information defining the timing during the presentation at which each caption is to be output to the user associated with the cellular telephone user device and wherein said

timing controller is configured to use the received wireless acoustic signal and the received synchronization information in determining the timing during the presentation at which each caption should be output to the user.

43. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 1, wherein said first receiver is configured to receive said set of captions or said sequence of captions via a telephone network.

44. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 1, wherein said first receiver is configured to receive said set of captions or said sequence of captions over a wired communications link in advance of the presentation.

45. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 1, wherein said cellular telephone user device is configured to use said first receiver to download a next caption from said caption store when it detects a synchronization code in the wireless signal received from said microphone.

46. (Canceled)

47. (Canceled)

48. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 1, wherein said caption store is provided by a remote server, wherein said cellular telephone user device comprises a mobile telephone and wherein the cellular telephone user device is configured to allow said user to interact with the remote server using the mobile telephone.

49. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 33, wherein said captions include text for display and wherein said captions include formatting information for controlling the format of the displayed text.

50. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 49, wherein each caption includes duration information defining the duration that the caption should be displayed on said display.

51. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 49, wherein said caption includes timing information defining the time at which the caption should be displayed to the user during the presentation.

52. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 33, wherein said caption store is provided in a remote computer system, wherein said cellular telephone user device includes a communication module for communicating with said computer system and wherein said first receiver forms part of said communicating means.

53. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 52, wherein said communication module is configured to communicate with said remote computer system using a wireless communication link.

54. (Canceled)

55. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 33, configured to receive synchronization information defining the timing during the presentation at which each caption is to be output to the user associated with the cellular telephone user device and wherein said timing controller is configured to use the received synchronization information in determining the timing during the presentation at which each caption should be output to the user.

56. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 55, wherein said synchronization information defines expected time points for one or more predetermined portions of the presentation.

57. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 56, comprising a monitoring circuit operable to monitor said presentation to identify the actual time points of said one or more predetermined portions, wherein said second receiver forms part of said monitoring circuit and wherein said timing controller is responsive to the difference between the actual timings and the expected timings to control the outputting of the captions by said caption output circuit.

58. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 57, wherein said predetermined portions of said presentation correspond to portions of audio of the presentation, wherein the monitoring circuit is responsive to the microphone to monitor the audio of the presentation and wherein said monitoring circuit comprises a comparator for comparing the received audio with the expected portions of the audio defined by said synchronization information.

59. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 57, having an acquisition mode of operation in which an output of said monitoring circuit is compared with said predetermined points defined by said synchronization information to identify a current position within said presentation and a tracking mode of operation in which the output of said monitoring circuit is compared with a current predetermined portion defined by said synchronization information.

60. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 59, wherein during said tracking mode of operation, said monitoring circuit is configured to monitor said presentation during a predetermined time window around the expected time point defined by said synchronization information for the current predetermined portion.

61. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 55, wherein said synchronization information is embedded within said presentation and comprising a monitoring circuit configured to monitor the presentation and to extract said synchronization information therefrom and wherein said second receiver forms part of said monitoring circuit.

62. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 55, wherein said synchronization information comprises synchronization codes occurring at different timings during the presentation.

63. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 62, wherein each synchronization code is unique to uniquely define the position in the presentation.

64. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 33, wherein said caption store includes a plurality of sets of captions for a plurality of different presentations and wherein the cellular telephone user-device is configured to capture a portion of said presentation and is configured to transmit the captured portion to said caption store for use by the caption store to identify the presentation being made.

65. (Previously Presented) A device according to claim 64, configured to process the captured portion of the presentation to extract data characteristic of the captured portion and configured to transmit said characteristic data to said caption store for use by the caption store to identify the presentation.

66. (Currently Amended) A method of providing captions for presentation to a user, the method comprising:

storing, at a caption store, one or more sets of captions each being associated with one or more presentations and each comprising a plurality of captions for playout at different timings during the associated presentation; and

at a portable cellular telephone user-device:

using a first receiver to receive, from said caption store, at least one set of captions for storage in the cellular telephone user-device or to receive a sequence of captions for a presentation to be made to an associated user;

using a microphone to receive a wireless acoustic signal that is time synchronized with the presentation for use in defining the timing during the presentation at which each caption is to be output to the user;

outputting the captions to the associated user; and

processing the received wireless acoustic signal to determine the timing during the presentation at which each caption should be output and controlling the outputting step so that each caption is output to the user at the determined timing.